

Amendments to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter comprising:
 a rectifier arrangement (~~D1-D4~~) having inputs coupled to AC power supply terminals;
 a pair of series-connected capacitors (~~C1, C2~~) coupled across output terminals of the rectifier arrangement;
 a switch (~~S1~~) coupled between one of said AC power supply terminals and a midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors, the switch being open if a first AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, and the switch being closed if a second AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, the first AC voltage exceeding the second AC voltage; and
 an overvoltage protection circuit (~~D5, R30, D6~~) coupled between at least one of the inputs of the rectifier arrangement and the midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 1, the overvoltage protection circuit (~~D5, R30, D6~~) comprising a series connection of zener diodes having opposite conductivity directions.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 2, the overvoltage protection circuit (~~D5, R30, D6~~) further comprising a resistor (~~R30~~) in series with the zener diodes.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising diodes (~~D7, D8~~) each connected parallel to a corresponding one of the capacitors.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 2, the overvoltage protection circuit comprising resistors (~~R50, R60~~) connected in parallel to the zener diodes (~~D5, D6~~).

6. (ORIGINAL) A power converter as claimed in claim 1, the overvoltage protection circuit being coupled across the switch.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 1, the overvoltage protection circuit (~~D5, R30, D6~~) comprising a first branch between the midpoint and a first one of the rectifier arrangement inputs, and a second branch between the midpoint and a second one of the rectifier arrangement inputs.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 7, each branch comprising a series connection of a diode (~~D9, D10~~) and a zener diode (~~D5, D6~~) having opposite conductivity directions.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A power converter as claimed in claim 8, the overvoltage protection circuit comprising resistors (~~R50, R60~~) connected in parallel to the zener diodes (~~D5, D6~~).